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Applicant:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

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Sir/Madam:

Technology Center 2600

In accordance with Rule 56, applicants are aware of the publications listed in the Japanese Office action (copy enclosed) and in the enclosed copy of Patent Office Form 1449. A copy of each of the publications is enclosed herewith. The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted, PEARNE & GORDON LLP

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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02/17/2004

Date

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